

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2013-207-C - ORDER NO. 2013-872
DECEMBER 13, 2013

IN RE: Petition of the North American Numbering)	ORDER CANCELLING
Plan Administrator (NANPA) on Behalf of)	HEARING AND
the South Carolina Telecommunications)	APPROVING AREA
Industry for Relief of the 843 NPA)	CODE OVERLAY

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on the Petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (“NANPA”) on behalf of the South Carolina Telecommunications Industry (“the Industry”) for relief for the 843 Numbering Plan Area (“NPA”).

On May 30, 2013, Neustar, Inc., in its role as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, filed a Petition informing this Commission that, absent numbering plan area relief, the supply of central office codes for the 843 numbering plan area will exhaust during the fourth quarter of 2015. NANPA therefore requested that this Commission approve the telecommunications industry’s consensus recommendation of an all services distributed overlay of the 843 NPA. This overlay would assign a new NPA code to the same geographic area, and all existing customers would retain the 843 area code and would not have to change their telephone numbers. Ten-digit dialing by all customers between and within area codes in the area covered by the new area code would be required. The other choice for action is an area code split, in which the 843 NPA

would be split into two parts, one with a new area code. Existing subscribers living in the new area code area would have their telephone numbers changed.

Numerous telecommunications companies intervened in the proceeding under the Commission's Regulations after notice. Neustar filed the verified testimony of Thomas C. Foley, who stated that the industry's analysis led Neustar, on behalf of the Industry, to recommend the all services distributed overlay as the preferred means of relief for the 843 NPA, and that the Industry also recommends a 13-month schedule for implementing that overlay. The Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") filed the verified testimony of James McDaniel, who agreed with Mr. Foley's recommendation, and further recommended that the Commission require those telephone utilities directly impacted by the overlay to file a status report on their consumer education plans within 60 days of the issuance of any Commission order approving the overlay. The other parties in the case have indicated their support of the points stated in the Foley and McDaniel testimonies. There was only one Protestant, an out-of-state individual who stated a "personal preference" for an area code split instead of an area code overlay, and who requested a public hearing on same.

The parties (other than ORS) have now filed a joint Motion, requesting that the hearing be cancelled, and that this Commission issue an order on the basis of the verified pre-filed testimony, due to the unanimous support of the parties for the overlay of the 843 NPA. (ORS does not object to cancelling the hearing and granting relief on the merits, which is consistent with the prefiled testimony of ORS witness McDaniel.) The parties (other than ORS) also move that we enter an order (a) approving the area code overlay

supported by all parties to this proceeding, along with the 13-month implementation schedule; and (b) requiring those telephone utilities directly impacted by the overlay to file a status report on their consumer education plans within 60 days of the issuance of the Commission's order in this matter.

After a full examination of the record before us, including the verified testimonies of Neustar witness Foley and ORS witness McDaniel, we grant the joint Motion as filed. We believe that we can properly rule on the merits on the basis of the prefiled verified testimony of Foley and McDaniel, since the telecommunications industry (and ORS) unanimously support the all services distributed overlay of the 843 overlay and the stated 13-month implementation schedule.

Accordingly, we hold:

- 1) That the hearing in this matter is cancelled;
- 2) That the area code overlay for the 843 NPA and the 13-month implementation schedule are approved;
- 3) That those telephone utilities directly impacted by the overlay shall file a status report on their consumer education plans within 60 days of the issuance of this Order;
- 4) That this Commission requests that ORS work with those telephone utilities on consumer education activities in the affected area;

5) That this Order shall remain in full force and effect until further order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



Nikiya Hall, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)